

# Advanced Microturbine Systems

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**Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy**

## Silicon Nitride Materials Development at Honeywell

**Dr. Bjoern Schenk**

**Manager, Strategic Technology**

**Honeywell Engines, Systems & Services**

**2003 Distributed Energy Peer Review**

**December 2-4, 2003**

**Washington, DC**



# Agenda

- **Introduction**
- **Production Readiness Campaign**
  - Program History
  - Milestone #1 Review
  - Upcoming Milestones
  - ASN Development
- **Summary & Conclusions**

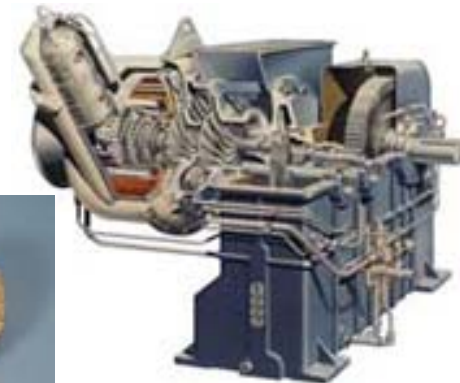
# Core Team Members

- **Honeywell Engines, Systems & Services**
  - Dr. Bjoern Schenk, Strategic Technology, Phoenix
  - Dr. Michael Meiser, Ceramic Components, Torrance
  - Dr. Jim Wimmer, Ceramic Components, Torrance
  - JJ Nick, Ceramic Components, Torrance
  - Dr. Chien-Wei Li, Advanced Materials R&D, Morristown
  - Dr. Jim Stevenson, Advanced Materials R&D, Morristown
  - Jim Guiheen, Advanced Materials R&D, Morristown
- **Fraunhofer Institute for Ceramic Technologies and Sintered Materials (IKTS), Dresden, Germany**
  - Dr. Hagen Klemm, Silicon Nitride Materials Development
- **H.C. Starck Ceramics, Selb, Germany**
  - Dr. Gerhard Woetting, Materials R&D
- **U.S. Department of Energy**
  - Debbie Haught, Washington
  - Steve Waslo, Chicago

# 28 Years Industry-Leading Experience In Ceramic Turbine Engine Technology Development

- **Integrated Approach is Key**
  - Honeywell's strength and leadership position in ceramic technology results from vertically integrated capabilities
- **Technology Development Focus Areas**
  - Material advances
  - Ceramic design methodologies
  - Component mounting/retaining systems
  - Ceramic life prediction methodologies
  - Production Readiness Campaign
- **First Generation Field Evaluations**
  - 85-series APU - radial-type ceramic nozzles **17,000+ hours**
    - ♦ M32-60A ground carts - Luke AFB, AZ  
**1,875 hours/12,000 starts**
  - Eleven 85-98DHF APUs on Alaska Airlines MD-80s **40,000+ hours**
  - 331-250 APU nozzles on three A300-600 **12,883 hours, 12,039 cycles**
  - ASE8-800 industrial engine blisk **14,800+ hours**

The Power of  
**Honeywell**



**Honeywell**

# Principal Commercialization Barriers

- Inadequate oxidation protection technology
- Inadequate facilities available to screen candidate substrate material and novel coating systems prior to high risk engine tests
- Immature low-cost near-net-shape fabrication processes
- Insufficient publicly available material design database of latest ceramic material vintage
- Unproven tip rub resistance
- Lower impact resistance than single crystal alloys
- Immature Cooled Component Fabrication

**Honeywell's IR&D and Government-Funded Program Suite Addresses All Barriers And Enables Accelerated Commercialization of Ceramics in Small Gas Turbines**



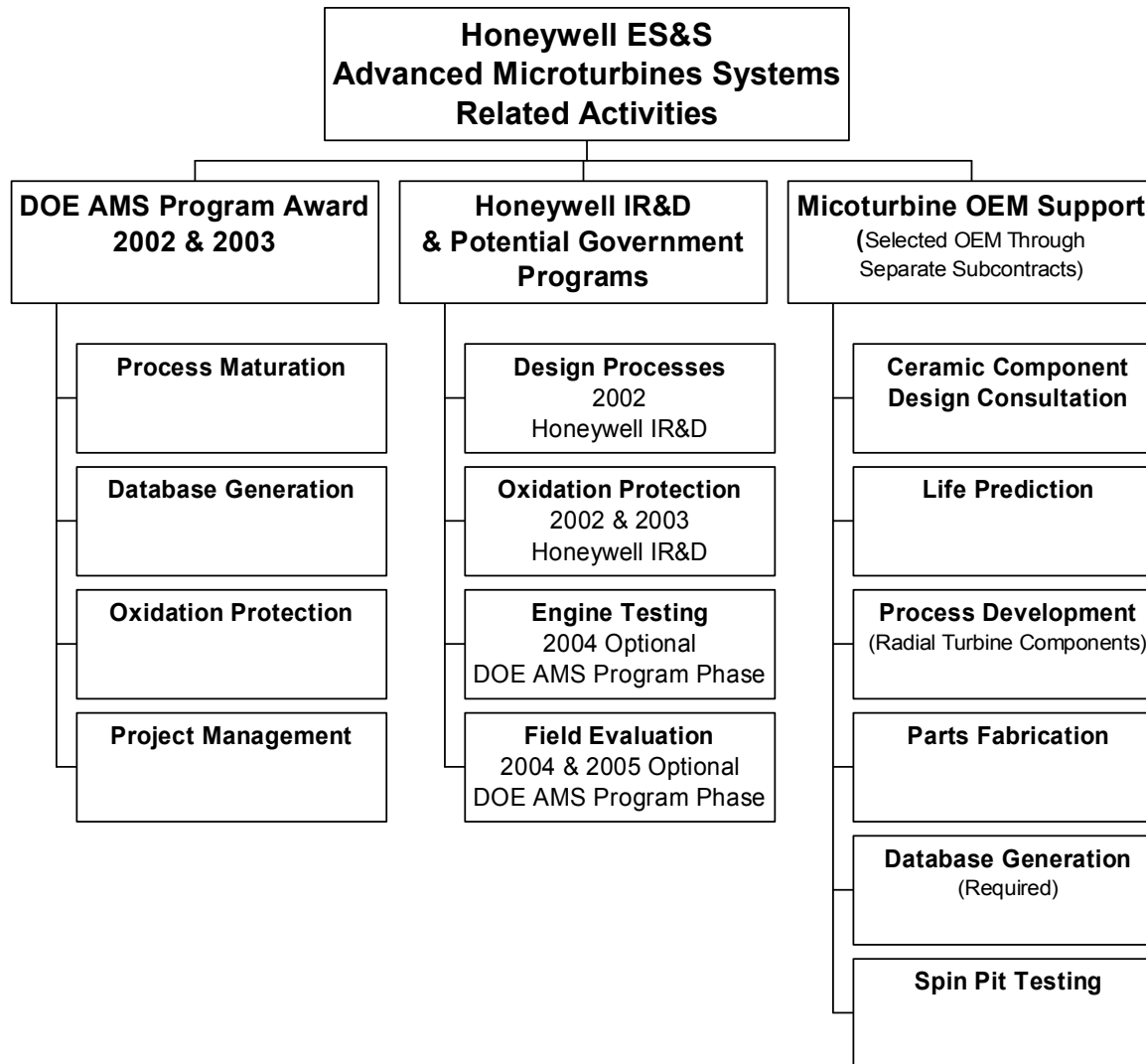
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Strategic Technology  
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# Motivation and Strategy

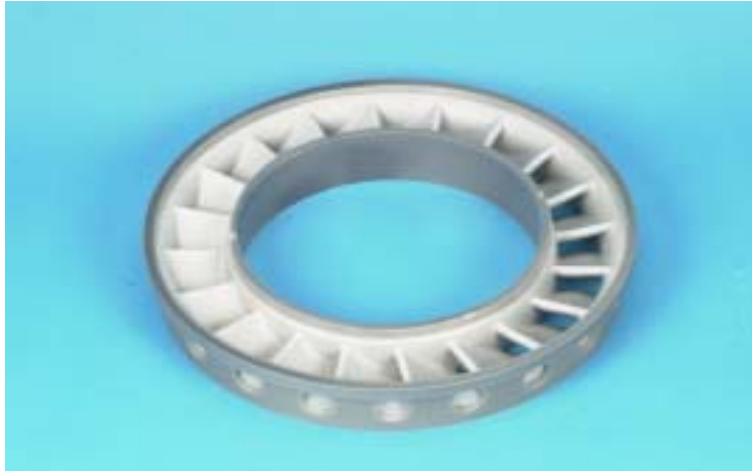
- Original Honeywell AMS contract did not adequately address critical ceramic component commercialization requirements
- New program strategy was required to **develop the infrastructure** and materials & process engineering disciplines necessary to overcome those barriers, which currently prevent structural ceramic component commercialization in advanced heat engines
- Revised program plan provides approach to resolve each of these issues and follows a **natural progression based on past DOE-funded efforts** at HES&S
- Focus will be on **very near-term ceramic component production capability** for premium gas turbine applications such as advanced industrial microturbines for distributed power generation
- Effort will draw heavily on "lessons learned" from the problems and successes on previously completed ceramics development and demonstration programs

# Work Breakdown Structure



# Mature Low-Cost Near-Net-Shape Manufacturing Of Large Integral Ceramic Components

**Nozzle Rings**



**Blisks**



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**Radial Turbine Wheels**





# Top Level Summary

- **Benefits to Selected Microturbine OEM**
  - Delivery of high quality ceramic components
  - Mature low-cost near-net-shape fabrication process
  - Adequate oxidation protection
  - Joint development of publicly available material design database
  - Access to Honeywell ceramic gas turbine design & life prediction expertise
- **Benefits to the Government**
  - Protect past investment and build upon successes in ceramic gas turbine technology development
  - Participation of ORNL in key development activities
    - ♦ component characterization & database generation
    - ♦ oxidation protection system evaluation
  - UDRI (Mechanical Testing in Moist Environment)
  - Academia (Northwestern, Lehigh, UC Boulder) (EBC Fundamentals)
  - Argonne National Lab (NDE Characterization of EBCs)

# Honeywell IR&D Programs

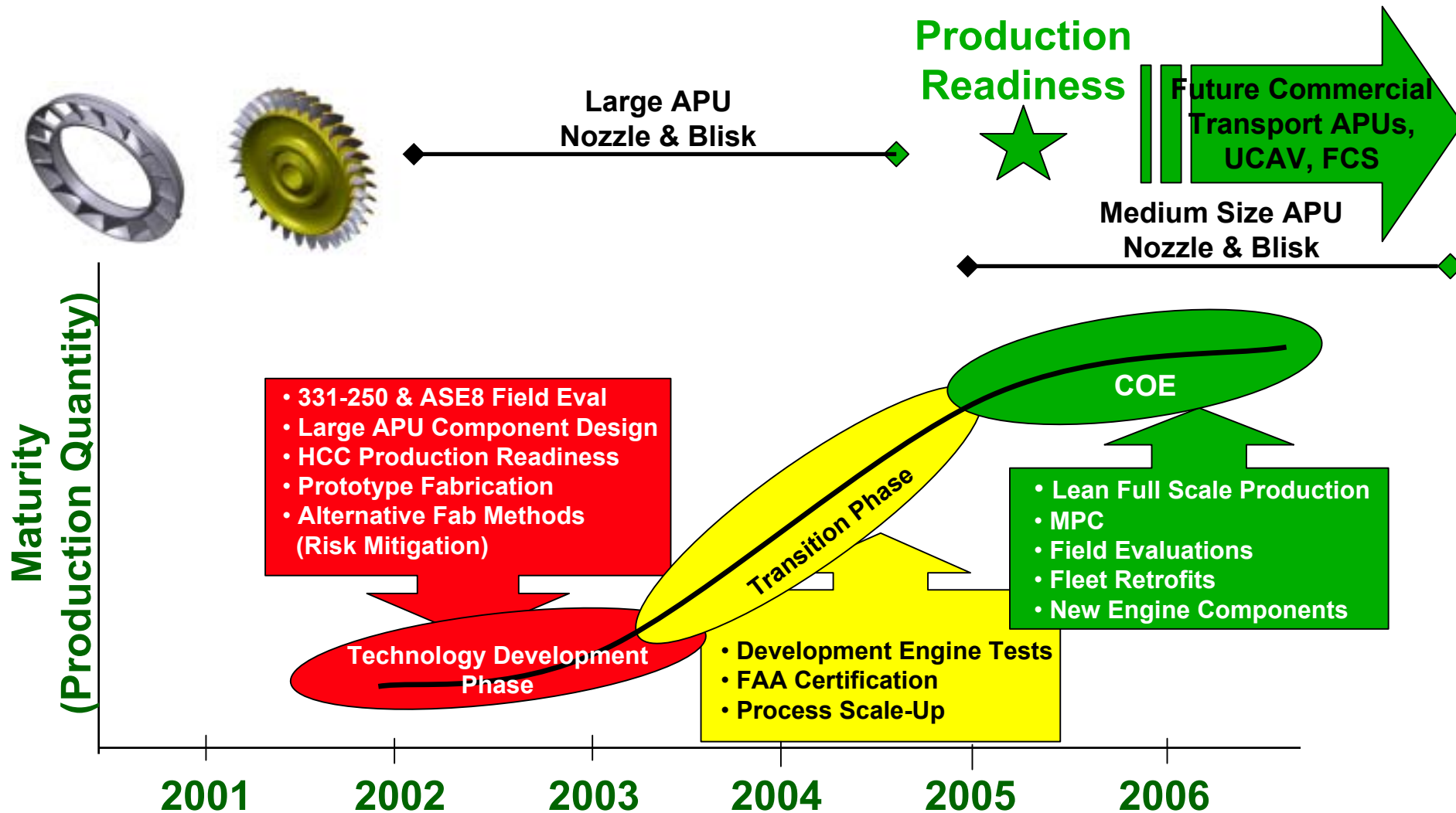
- Sintering Cycle Optimization
- Alternative Manufacturing Approaches
- Next Generation Silicon Nitride Material (ASN) Development
- Next Generation EBC Development
- Ceramic Hot Section Component Designs
- Design/Lifing Methodology Refinements
- Development Engine Testing
- Field Evaluation



# Agenda

- Introduction
- **Production Readiness Campaign**
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# CAPU Ceramic Technology Insertion Plan

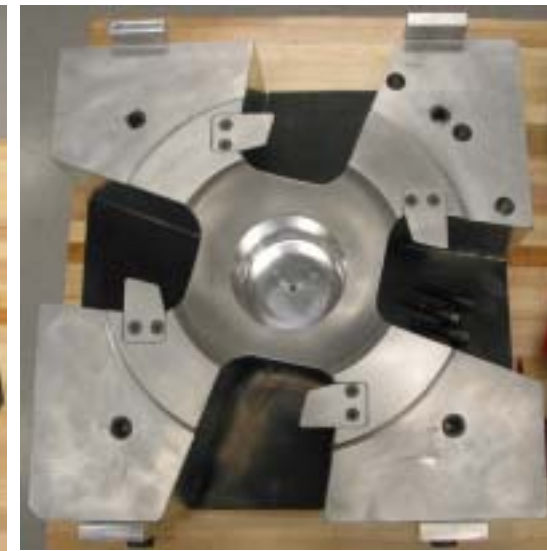
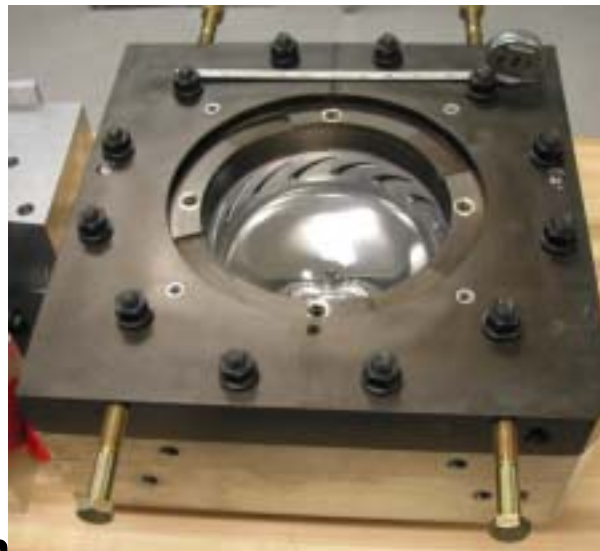
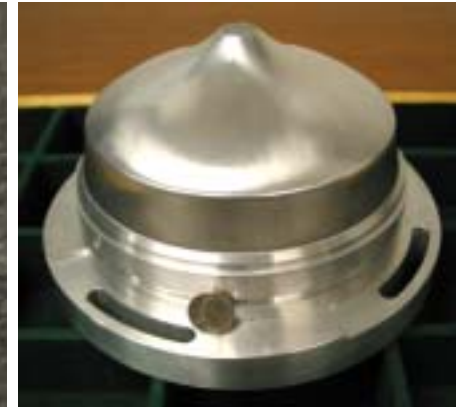


# Technology Development Phase History

- Initiated development of net-shape gelcasting process for large APU integral nozzle ring and blisk 26 months ago
  - Gelcasting was perceived as the lowest cost process and needed to support larger volume projections
  - Focussed Six Sigma Plus efforts to understand and quantify process variation
    - ♦ Casting Defects
    - ♦ Material Properties
    - ♦ Dimensional Control
- *In Q1 2003 concluded gelcast process capability would not meet component requirements*
- Already in Q3 2002 initiated evaluation of alternative forming processes
  - Learned of success H.C. Starck (Germany) had with proprietary CIP and green machining as a low-cost forming process
  - Acquired exclusive process technology license
- Past 6 months focussed on CIP AS800 process evaluation and refinement

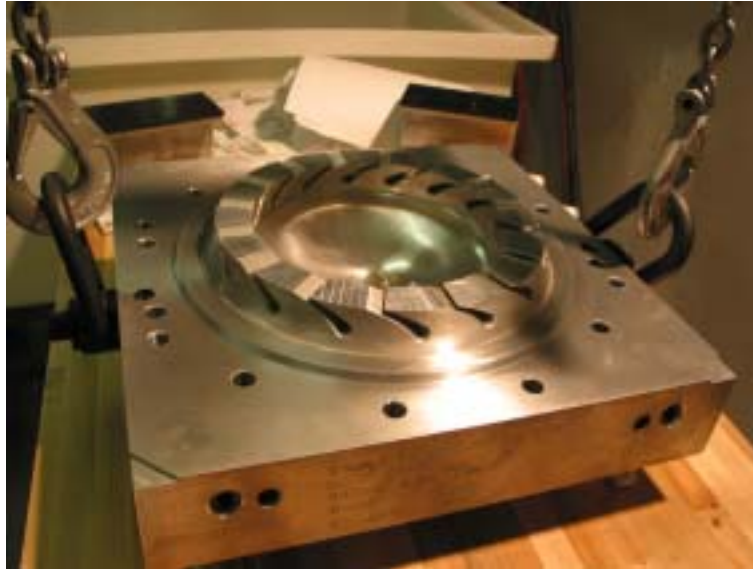
# Nozzle Ring Development Tool

- The new tool design process was used to design and fabricate new nozzle ring development tool
- Realistic nozzle geometry
- Design similar to production tool
  - fill
  - venting
  - heating and cooling
  - assembly and disassembly
- Compatible with vacuum casting process



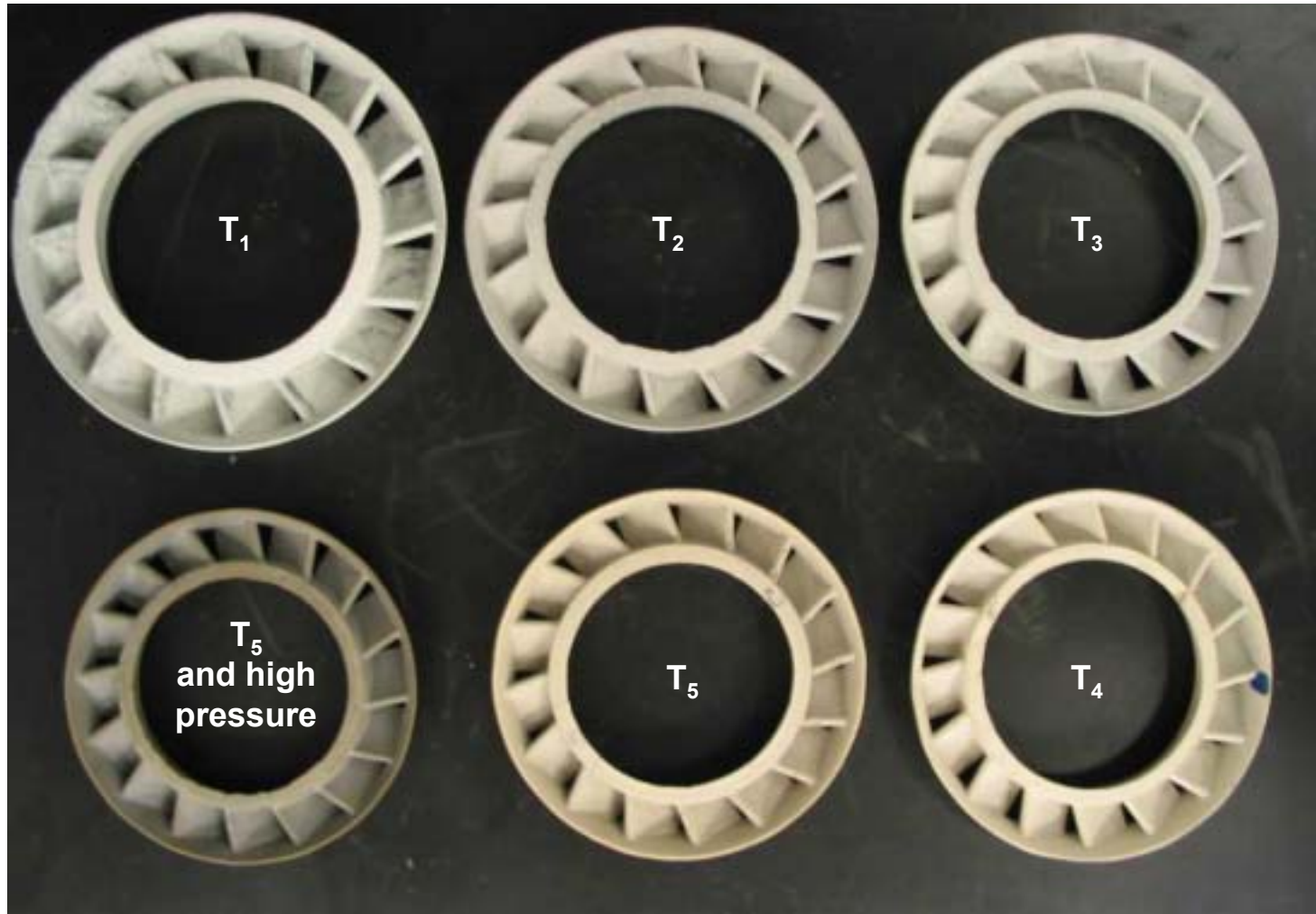
## Nozzle Ring Development Tool

# Nozzle Ring Development Tool (cont.)





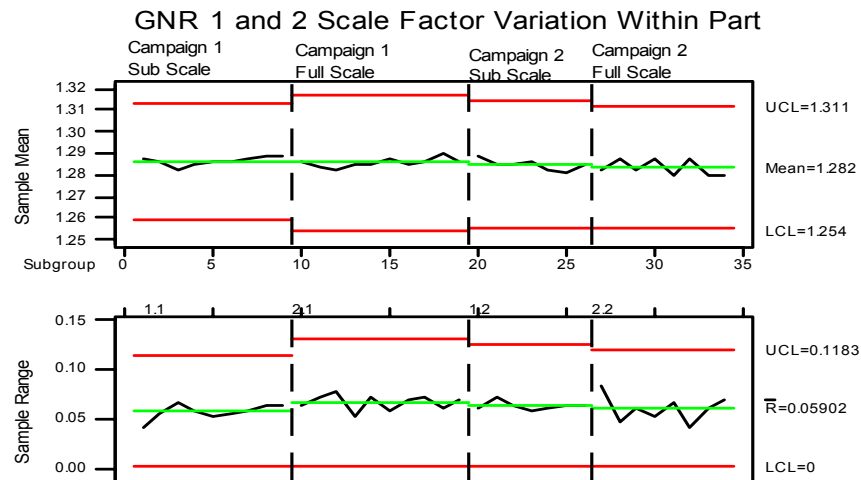
# Interrupted Sintering Runs To Study Distortion



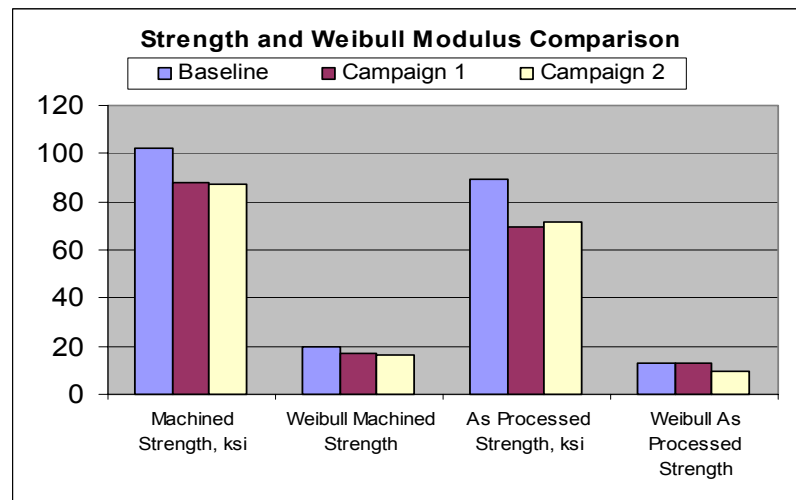


# Gelcasting Findings & Conclusion

- Within part scale factor variation is 5.9% - too high to order tooling
- Large number of correlated factors control scale factor variation
- Significant scale factor variation & distortion occurs during final stages of sintering



- Machined and as processed surface mechanical properties of large component cut-ups are significantly lower than historical data on AS800
- Weibull modulus is also lower on both machined and as processed surface test specimens cut from components



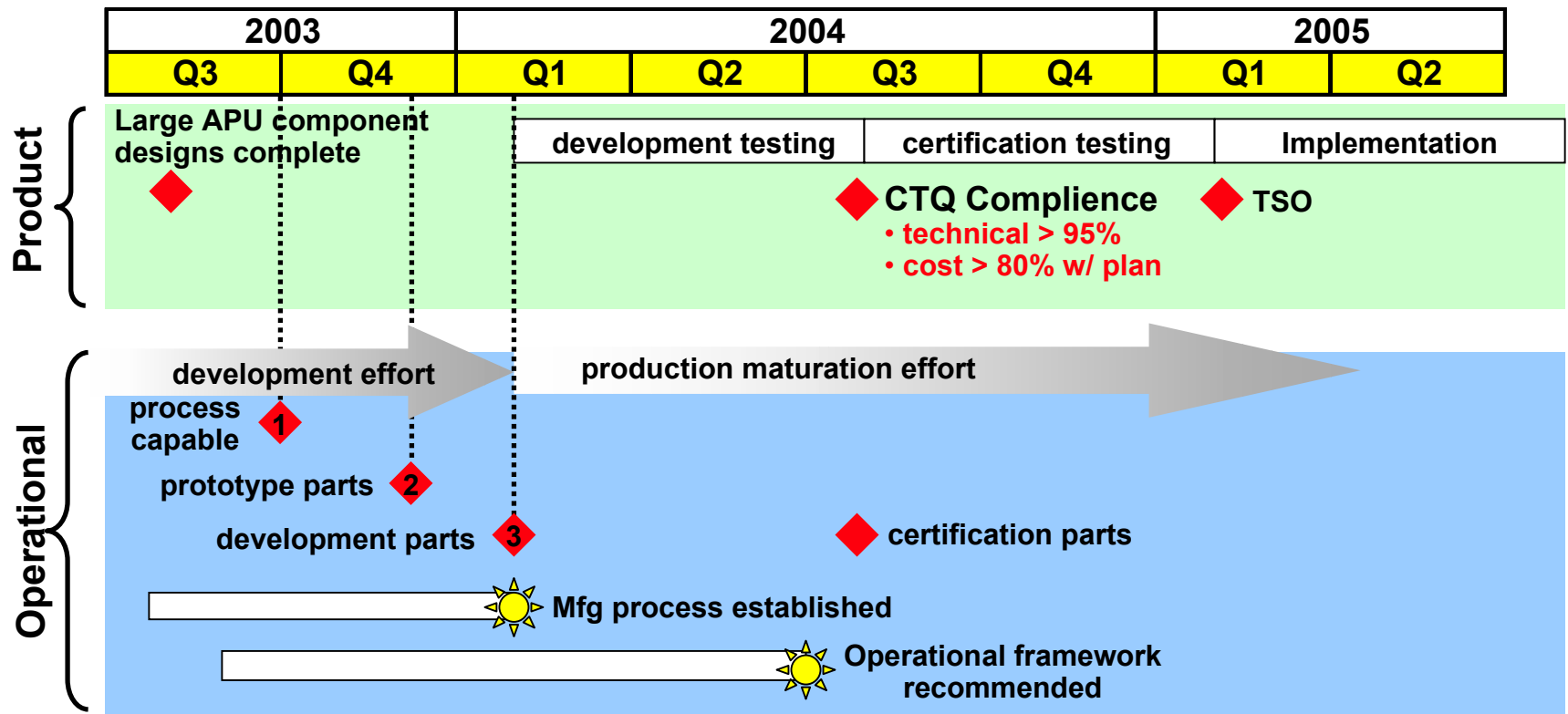
**Gelcasting Process May Not Be Capable Of Meeting Customer Requirements**

# Remaining Gelcast Issues

- **Defect and Variation Reduction**
  - Defects caused by fill method
  - Defects caused by tool design
  - Variability of scale factor
    - ♦ Within part
    - ♦ Part to part
- **Distortion**
  - Thermal environment
  - Drag / sintering fixturing
  - Wet part handling / fixturing

- **Alternative Forming Approaches**
  - Non-Aqueous Gelcasting
  - Slipcast & Bisque Machining
  - CIP & Green Machining
- **Next Generation Substrate Material Development**
  - Improved oxidation resistance
  - Stress rupture and creep properties similar to AS950EXP and SN282
  - Improved chemical interface compatibility with next generation EBC system

# Operational Readiness Approach

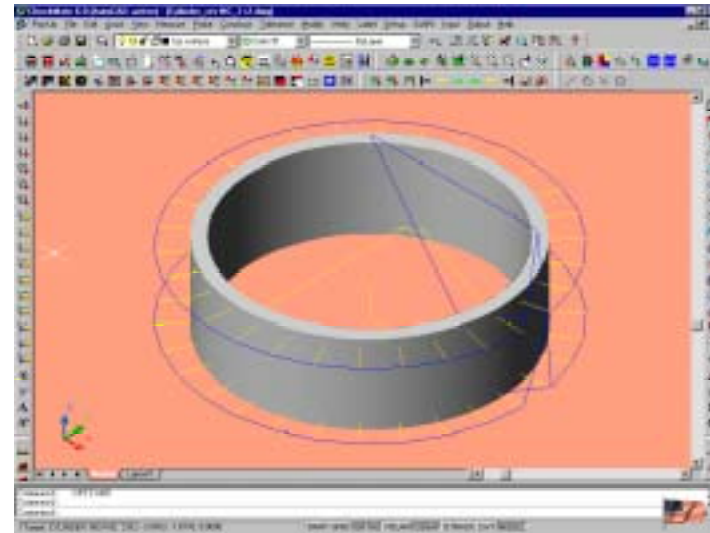


# Milestone 1: September 30, 2003

## Fundamental Process Capability Assessment

- **Available Forming Methods**
  - Gelcast Net Shape (Baseline)
  - Slipcast & Presinter Machining (PSM)
  - Cold Isostatic Pressing (CIP) & PSM
  - CIP & Green Machining (GM)
- **Sample Geometry**
  - Large Thin-Walled Ring (6.25" OD, 1.4" height, 0.20" wall thickness)
- **Go/No-Go Criteria**
  - **Roundness** of 50% of the parts manufactured by the most capable process has to be equal or **better than 0.020"**
  - **Positional Error** (True Position) with respect to OD mid position (datum) of 50% of the parts manufactured by the most capable process has to be equal or **better than 0.004"**

# Process Capability Assessment Roundness & True Position



- 30 individual data points taken at OD at 3 different heights, respectively
- Center of “best fit” circle through mid-plane OD data points represents datum
- **Roundness** is defined as the radial distance between two concentric circles forming the tightest band that includes all 30 points
- **Positional Error** (True Position) is defined as twice the radial displacement of the axis of the considered feature to the datum
- **Cylindricity** (not required) is defined as the radial distance between two concentric cylinders forming the tightest band that includes all 90 points

# Process Capability Assessment Results

Forming Process	Roundness <sup>*</sup>	Positional Error <sup>*</sup>	Cylindricity <sup>**</sup>
Gelcast Net Shape	0.056"	0.011"	N/A (draft angle)
Slipcast & Presinter Machining	0.037"	0.005"	0.051"
Cold Isostatic Pressing (CIP) & PSM	0.012"	0.002"	0.0178"
CIP & Green Machining (GM)	0.0186" (0.0067") <sup>***</sup>	0.002"	0.023" (0.0154") <sup>***</sup>
Target	0.020"	0.004"	0.020" <sup>**</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> Maximum of the 3 different measurement plane values (top, middle, bottom)

<sup>\*\*</sup> Not required to pass go/no-go gate (good indication for achievable surface profile tolerance though)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Achieved at IKTS using modified sintering cycle in smaller furnace for 5.5" OD rings

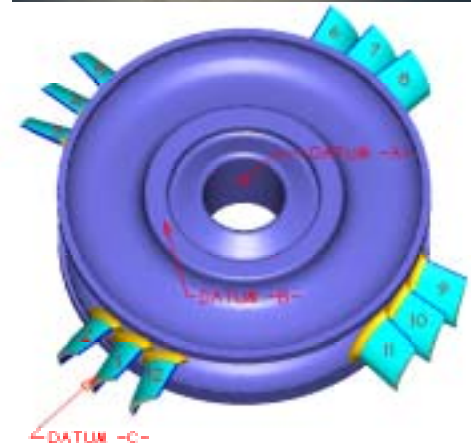
## Conclusions

- Successfully passed first go/no-go gate (Milestone 1)
  - Process capability regarding distortion: **CIP > Slipcast >> Gelcast**
- Green machining would allow meeting cost target, while PSM would present significant manufacturing cost challenge
  - Go-forward with CIP & PSM for Milestone 2 & 3
  - Develop and transition CIP & GM from H.C. Starck in parallel to address fab cost

# Milestone 2: November 30, 2003

## Prototype Fabrication Capability

- **Sample Geometry**
  - 8" OD paddle wheel to assess airfoil distortion
- **Batch Size**
  - 4 paddle wheels using best process
- **Go/No-Go Criteria**
  - Roundness of rim OD has to be equal or better than 0.015" for 50% of the parts
  - Surface profile tolerance of 0.020" (+/-0.010") with respect to center line datum structure met for all blades of 50% of the parts
  - Actual position of all blades on the rim has to be within 0.010" (+/-0.005") of nominal position as defined by print





# Milestone 2

## Interim Results

- Rim roundness less than 0.008” for 100% of parts
- Disk droop less than 0.005”
- Airfoil profile tolerance less than 0.015”
  - includes consistent twist ( $<1^\circ$ ) of airfoils (sintering distortion)
  - will be corrected in next iteration by changing CMM program
- Process optimization of spray drying, CIP, and sintering cycle underway
- GM allows one order of magnitude reduction of machining cost

**CIP and PSM or GM process seems capable of meeting dimensional and cost requirements of large complex components**

# Milestone 3: January 31, 2004

## Development Engine Test Hardware

- **Sample Geometry**
  - Nozzle Ring per production print
  - Blisk per production print
- **Batch Size**
  - 4 parts per component using final process in order to yield at least 2 parts per component meeting criteria below for delivery
- **Go/No-Go Criteria**
  - 50% of the parts manufactured by the final process have to be within +/- 5% of the dimensional tolerance requirements of production print
  - The following mechanical properties of co-processed material have to be within 95% of current EMS53192
    - ♦ room temperature flexural strength
    - ♦ dynamic fatigue at 2200F for 0.003 and 30 MPa/s
  - Present credible plan to demonstrate 80% of fab cost goal by June 2004

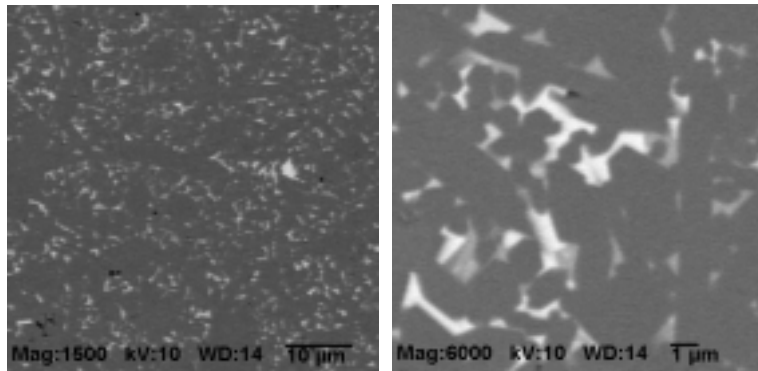


# Ceramic Materials Development

## Advanced Silicon Nitride (ASN)

- Ongoing Honeywell IR&D Program
- ASN material development for extended use at 1,400C (2,550F) material temperature
- Robust gas pressure sintering process, in-situ reinforced (ISR) microstructure
- Maintain superior design characteristics of benchmark Honeywell AS800  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ 
  - $K_{Ic} > 7 \text{ MPa m}^{0.5}$ ,  $m > 20$ , RT FF strength  $> 90 \text{ ksi}$ , 1,400C FF strength  $> 70 \text{ ksi}$
- Similar long term HT properties relative to benchmark Kyocera SN282  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ 
  - Oxidation Resistance: weight gain after 1,000 hours at 1,400C  $< 1.0 \text{ mg cm}^{-2}$
  - Creep Resistance: steady state creep rate (4P-bend) at 1,400C and 200 MPa  $< 1.0 \times 10^{-9} \text{ s}^{-1}$
- Chemically compatible with Honeywell's next generation OBC/EBC system

### ASN ISR Microstructure



### Results Achieved To Date

- Chemical constituents and compositional window established
- RT FF strength: 100 ksi
- 1,400C FF strength: 80 ksi
- Weibull modulus  $m$ : 32
- $K_{Ic}$ :  $8 \text{ MPa m}^{0.5}$
- Weight gain (1,000 hours, 1,400C):  $0.7 \text{ mg cm}^{-2}$
- Creep rate (1400C): TBD (testing initiated)

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# Summary & Conclusions

- **Enabling technology and infrastructure development in progress**
- **Various forming methods for large integral components evaluated**
- **CIP and GM clearly the only capable low-cost process**
- **Efforts in 2004 need to focus on**
  - making prototype engine parts
  - process scale-up and maturation (fixed process)
  - demonstration of cost target
- **Next generation material (ASN) for higher temperature microturbines already in the development & transition pipeline**